

News & Views

February 2007

COME ONE, COME ALL
TO THE
2007 CKMCCA
WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Featuring the acoustic talents of
Soloist Tom Harding

- When: March 3, 2007 from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Where: Locust Lane Club House
Why: To relax, chat with neighbors and enjoy
an acoustic mix of music from the 60's
& 70's.
R.S.V.P: To Bette Brunelle

CKMCCA Officers

President:

Ray Misiewicz

Vice President:

Amy Sangaline

Treasurer:

Chuck Kearns

Secretary:

Open Seat



There will be a \$5.00 per person charge to
help cover the costs of refreshments.

NATIONAL GRID TREE TRIMMING

National Grid has notified us that they will begin tree maintenance along our primary feeder #34552 over a three month period starting on January 22, 2007. The work will be performed by either National Grid crews or their qualified contractors. The work involves pruning or removal of large and small branches, and, in some cases, the removal of trees that pose a severe threat to their facilities. There is no charge for the work and you do not have to be at home when it is done. The crews will try to notify you in person at the time the work is done. If they are not able to contact you, they will leave a notice at a convenient entrance to your property on the day of the work. If you have any questions you may contact the customer service center at 1-800-642-4272.



Golf Anyone?

Will 2007 be the year when we revive a long-standing CKMCCA tradition of having a neighborhood golf league or one-day tournament? That's up to you.

If you would be interested in helping put together a league or tournament, or would be interested in playing if such a league or tournament were organized, please e-mail or call Bryon Backenson at pbryon@fastmail.fm or 253-7287. Everyone would be welcome, regardless of age, sex, or skill level. It'd be a great way to get a little exercise and meet some of your neighbors, as well as to support our local golf course.

Once we get an idea of how many people are interested, and if they're more interested in a one-night a week league or a one-day tournament, we'll contact the owners of the course to see what our options are, and start planning.

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Honoring Youth Volunteers, Caring Kids Program

The Civic Association invites you to salute the good works of a youngster from our neighborhood who gives generously of her or his time and energy for the welfare of others. It's easy to do! Just write up a brief description of the kid and how she or he helps out. Mail or email it to Loretta Parsons (lparson@nycap.rr.com, 18 Majorca Ln. 371-7729.) Please include the name of two references for the youngster. (If you're not the parent, please check with them first.)

We will publish these stories in future issues of the News & Views for all to enjoy. In addition, next fall the Civic Association will donate \$100 to the charity of the youngster's choice. If more than three youngsters are nominated as Caring Kids (and we certainly expect there are many more than that eligible!), the three to be honored with a monetary donation will be chosen by random drawing.

Share the good news. Shine the spotlight on our local young heroes! Write those glowing letters of appreciation today!!

Call For Applications: CKMCCA Annual Scholarship Award

Your annual dues to the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association helps our neighborhoods have the children's Halloween party, have the adult wine and cheese party, maintain our neighborhood entrance markers, and publish this newsletter and our annual directory. For the past several years, it has also granted a scholarship to a different deserving neighborhood student each year.

The CKMCCA is again offering a \$500.00 scholarship award to recognize an outstanding high school senior who shows academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and involvement in the community. Besides showing these characteristics, the other requirements are that the student must live in the Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek neighborhoods, and their family must be dues-paying members of the Civic Association. Students are eligible regardless of the school that they attend.

To apply for the scholarship, high school seniors are required to submit a letter describing their qualifications and interest in receiving the scholarship. Because the scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and civic involvement, it would be wise to include this information in the letter. A copy of your most recent high school transcript is also required. Other information, such as letters of recommendation, could prove helpful in the selection process, but are not required.

Applications are evaluated and ranked by a group of business, governmental, and academic leaders in the Capital District. They are not members of the Civic Association, to ensure their impartiality.

If there are questions regarding the scholarship or the application process, please contact:

Bryon Backenson
8 Eldorado Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065

There is no formal application form. The application consists of the letter/essay, transcripts, and optional supporting documents. These should be submitted to Bryon Backenson at the address above by **February 15, 2007.**

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Board of Directors Message

As we begin 2007 your Board of Directors wishes you a happy and healthy new year. Your Civic Association celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. We have a number of upcoming events that we hope you will participate in with us. They include:

Adult Wine and Cheese Party: A great group of your neighbors got together and volunteered to stage this event for the Civic Association in 2007. We owe them a big thank-you and hope that everyone comes and meets them at the Locust Lane Clubhouse party on Saturday, March 3rd. For a \$5 donation at the door you get to mingle with your neighbors and enjoy the entertainment, food and open wine, beer and soft drinks bar. RSVP as noted on the cover page. Mark the date on your calendar and if you forget to RSVP that's fine, show up anyway!

Membership: Our 2007 Directory is being printed and will be delivered in the first quarter of 2007. It's mailed to residents who have joined the Civic Association. Our 2007 membership drive is underway and we need your support if you haven't joined as yet. Your \$15 dues facilitate our Civic Association events, as well as the News & Views and Directory. Please use the enclosed application and mail your 2007 membership today! We thank all of those who have supported the CKMCCA over the years with their membership and their volunteer support.

CKMCCA Annual Meeting: Please mark Wednesday, April 25th at 7:30 pm on your calendar. We'll hold the Civic Association public meeting that night at the Locust Lane Clubhouse. Come meet and vote for your Board of Directors. We'd appreciate your feedback and ideas for the future direction of the Civic Association. After a short business meeting, we are trying to arrange a presentation on the commercial/residential development projects as well as open space improvements planned for here in the southeast quadrant of Clifton Park. We'll finalize those arrangements with you in the early April issue of the News & Views.

Scholarship: We're accepting nominations for the award this spring of the 2007 CKMCCA College

Scholarship. This annual program is open to any college bound high school senior who's family is a member of the CKMCCA. Bryon Backenson is heading up this year's search for the winner so contact him if you want to learn more about this program. See the details in his article elsewhere in the News & Views.

Caring Kids: We haven't had a great response to this new program which was established to recognize the children who have provided service to our community. It parallels the scholarship award which recognizes academic achievement. Just write us a short article about the community service provided by the nominee and we'll publish that in the News & Views. We'll draw three names at random from the nominations submitted and award a \$100 donation to each charity of their choice at the Halloween Party next fall. We will be accepting nominations only through **May 15**, so get them started and in as soon as possible.

Greet Your New Neighbor: We have some extra 2006 Directories left and will order some spare 2007 Directories. If you have a new neighbor who's just moved in on your block, why not pick up one of these Directories and present it to the new resident as you stop by to say hello. Welcoming new folks to our community is a long standing tradition in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek. Use the available Directories as a nice way of greeting and introduction to our area. Call any of the Board Members below to get the Directory and let us know who the new folks are!

As you can see, we've got a lot going on in the first half of 2007. If you have any questions on the things discussed above or would like to volunteer your time to Civic Association events or even serve on the Board of Directors, call any of the current board members using the contact information presented below.

If you're interested, call or talk to any Board member listed below about getting involved in the Association or the events it sponsors:

President:

Ray Misiewicz

Vice-President:

Amy Sangaline

continued on next page

Treasurer:

Chuck Kearns

Secretary:

Rotating Assignment

Board Members:

Bryon Backenson

Joyce Savage

Kyle Hempstead Scholarship

Offered through Shenendehowa Dollars for Scholars Program

The Kyle Hempstead Scholarship will only be offered this year through the Shenendehowa Dollars for Scholars program. Qualifying seniors are invited to visit the DFS website, to review the qualifications for this and other scholarships, and to apply through the Shenendehowa Guidance Department.

The Kyle Hempstead Scholarship, a multiple scholarship program (totalling \$10,000), is being offered only during the 2006 - 07 school year in memory of Kyle Hempstead who attended Acadia Middle School and who loved the creative arts (music, acting, drawing, cartooning). This scholarship is open only to seniors who attended Acadia Middle School and who now attend Shenendehowa High School. For more details on particular requirements for this scholarship, interested seniors should visit www.cliftonpark.org/shendfs.

Kyle Brian Hempstead was an honor student at Acadia Middle School until his death on 11/29/2002 at the age of 13. He cherished life, loved learning, and had a deep passion for Math and Astronomy. Curious and analytical, Kyle loved to debate just about anything or anybody. He had a special way of making his point of view known while also accepting others' ideas. Kyle always had the ability to extract humor from any situation or challenge. If humor was lacking,

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he would surely introduce it. There was not much in life that Kyle did not soak up and enjoy. The scholarship bearing his name is being offered by the family to help other students continue their education and fulfill their dreams.

Additional scholarships, available to seniors living in the Shenendehowa School District and offered through the Dollars for Scholars program by other families and businesses may be viewed on the DFS website. Applications may be downloaded from the website or picked up in the guidance offices.

Happy Housing



By Genie Bassett

As the winter trundles along in its fitful way and there is continuing talk about the slow real estate market, this might be a good time to consider how to make the best of the outstanding homes we enjoy in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek.

Our homes have some attributes that make them very desirable. It is our responsibility as homeowners to take full advantage of the attributes – both in terms of the pleasures of living in this special neighborhood and the economics of protecting a major financial investment.

As I assist Knolls and Mill Creek owners in preparing their homes for sale, a frequent issue to come up is whether to uncover the hardwood floors. In my opinion, unless the carpet is nearly new and in pristine condition, it is generally a big plus to have the hardwood exposed. After all, the wealth of hardwood we find in many of our houses is an expensive and attractive feature that deserves to be seen.

A few years ago, we decided to take up the carpet and have the floors refinished, and we are very happy that we did. We were concerned as the work began as to what would be found under all that carpet. Would there be stains and damage to the hardwood that would complicate the refinishing process? Would the maintenance of the wood floors become an unpleasant and demanding task? After all, it is pretty easy to run a vacuum over the carpet.

It turns out that after the work is done and the hardwood is adding its warm glow to the house, the maintenance is a snap. Most cleaning involves running a dust mop over the floors. The modern polyurethane coatings are a wonder. They are practically impervious to water and can be cleaned with a damp sponge mop with just a little soap in the water. Spills wipe up with a paper towel. This is the way we do it. Check the

recommendations of the manufacturer of any products used on your floor to make sure your are cleaning them in the right way.

We even took the extra step by having hardwood installed in our kitchen. And it was an excellent decision as it creates a nice open flow through

the entire house, tying all the rooms together. It is a personal choice. Some folks prefer ceramic tile, which can be a very nice feature and a good modern look. But we love the hardwood because of the warmth it brings to the home.

During these winter days when it is not so pleasant to be outdoors, it is a good time to either tend to indoor tasks or plan for the spring when we can get after the shrubs, the flowers and the lawn.

There are the obvious inside improvements you can make – painting, new window treatments, redecorating. But perhaps one of the more dramatic projects you can undertake to emphasize the nice square footage that our houses have is to declutter and

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A real estate advertisement featuring a hot air balloon with 'RE/MAX' written on it in the top left corner. Below the balloon is a black and white photograph of a woman and a man. The text reads: 'Genie and Bob sell homes!', 'Genie Bassett 371-3594 – Bob Sanderson 378-6540', 'RE/MAX Park Place, Clifton Park', and 'www.geniebassett.com email: genie@geniebassett.com'.

Genie and Bob sell homes!
Genie Bassett 371-3594 – Bob Sanderson 378-6540
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reorganize how we use this ample space.

This might involve taking a hard look at how much furniture we have in our living rooms and whether our closets are stuffed to the gills with clothing or other treasures that we haven't used in a couple of years. Chuck just purchased a couple more of this strong plastic shelves that snap together and placed them in the garage. What a difference that has made to get things organized. We have also been making good use of our annual "recycling center" permit from the town.

The annual Burpees catalog came a few days ago. That is the signal to begin to think spring and how we can maximize the large lots we have.

Happy Housing!

Genie

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The View From Here

By: Ray Misiewicz

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. I know the winter weather lovers suffered through spring conditions in December and early January, but golfers seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Current Events:

The Vischer-Ferry Fire District wants to replace the 43 year old Station 2 on Vischer-Ferry Road just north of Stewart's Plaza. The proposal is to build a new 7,000 square-foot building financed through issuance of a bond, costing district taxpayers about \$5.00 per year. A vote is tentatively scheduled for late January. If that hasn't happened by the time you read this, watch for the date in the local papers.

The Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon were awarded a joint federal grant of \$1.68 million to construct a 5.5 mile walking trail along the Mohawk River from Clamsteam Road in Halfmoon to Ferry Road in the Hamlet of Vischer-Ferry. The 10 foot wide, stone-dust path will run along the old Erie Canal towpath once used by the mules that towed the canal boats.

The Vischer-Ferry Nature Preserve has been designated as a New York State Bird Conservation Area, only one of 48 such properties in the state. The designation opens the door for federal funding of water control and habitat improvements at the nature area. The designation will not affect the existing recreational activities including the trail system and annual duck hunting.

The N.Y. State Canal Corporation awarded Clifton Park a grant of \$180,000 to develop a boat launch and picnic area off Riverview Road, providing the first public access to the Mohawk River in Clifton Park.

Despite the tax cut advertised in Saratoga County's recently passed budget, Clifton Park county tax rates

as well as 13 other communities will actually go up because of changes in the equalization rates which are used to offset differences in assessments between communities. The County tax rate goes up in Clifton Park where the equalization rate has dropped, reflecting the surge in market values over the last few years. Clifton Park has not reassessed properties for quite some time.

The State Public Authorities Control Board approved a \$650 million funding deal with Advanced Micro Devices for the computer chip fabrication plant in Luther Forest. The state will borrow this money as part of an estimated \$1.2 billion incentive package to create about 1000 jobs at the AMD facility. AMD signed a non-binding agreement to notify the state within the next two years as to when it intends to proceed with the plant. Once AMD notifies the state, New York has to deliver the \$650 million within 90 days, after which AMD has to begin building the plant within 7 months from receipt of the grant. The deal also stipulated that construction has to be completed by December, 2014.

The Saratoga County Water System remains up in the air even though initial construction bids came in under the pre-bid estimates. The County has hired a consultant to guide the further development of the project which was deemed necessary to supply industrial process water to the AMD chip fabrication plant discussed above. The problem is that no-one has yet signed up to buy the water. The Clifton Park Water Authority has not yet signed on to the deal because of concerns with the rate structure. Recently, the City of Schenectady offered to sell Clifton Park water from its Great Flats Aquifer, through a pipeline to be constructed across the Mohawk River. That same pipeline could be extended to supply all of the Luther Forest Tech Park needs as well. At the same time, the Saratoga Economic Development Corp announced that Saratoga Water Services, the private company that now serves Luther Forest, has new high yield wells on line that could serve as a backup water source for AMD. Last but not least, the owner of that private water service is now suing the County over their plan to develop the County system, which uses

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the upper Hudson River as its source, claiming concerns for the projects impact on the environment. Are you confused? So am I!

Recollections:

Looking back to 1970 in Clifton Knolls we find the development still digging out from the post Christmas snowstorm that occurred in late December 1969. The Civic Association had to refund the checks donated by sponsors of the Christmas home decorating contest because the judges had not been able to get out and select a winner. I was still living in Schenectady at the time and remember being stranded out of state with relatives while trying to get home after Christmas, only to find the New York State Thruway closed north from New York City. A far cry from the weather we are experiencing this year.

The new Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library opened just before Christmas of 2006. In 1970 the Shenendehowa Free Public Library was located on the upper floor of the Key Bank Building at the corner of Routes 9 and 146. The Library Board at the time reaffirmed their commitment for a joint library serving the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon. Later that year the Library moved to new quarters in the old Clifton Park Schoolhouse on the corner of Cemetery Road and Old Route 146. That's just east off Route 9 down the road from the corner where Snyder's Restaurant and the Old Clifton Park Hotel are located.

In 1970 Mr. Edward Klingbeil died. He and his wife Mabel had run the General Store at Groom's Corners (Grooms and Sugar Hill Roads) since 1922 at what is now the Town owned and restored Groom's Tavern. Ed was a colorful character and the subject of many amusing stories. He's perhaps most remembered for the red hairpiece he would plop on his head when someone entered the store. I'm told by a reliable source that as many times as not he had put it on backwards.

One major debate for the community in 1970 was the need for a new middle school at Shenendehowa. Despite the support of your Civic Association the referendum for the bond issue was defeated later that year.

Vandalism in the Knolls was a growing concern and the Civic Association established a committee to investigate and recommend corrective measures. The committee included representatives from the Town, State Police, County Sheriff and the State Division of Narcotics.

In 1970 a new theater group, the Clifton Park Players, was formed. Their first production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" was presented in the junior high school auditorium that November.

Reader Feedback:

Several residents told me that Just's vegetable stand was on the corner of Moe and Grooms Road, where the vegetable stand is today. The original stand was built and operated by William Just who grew vegetables and employed kids from Clifton Knolls to hoe and pick during the summer. The Just family owned all the land on the southeast corner of Moe and Grooms Road and family members of William Just still live along Grooms and Moe Roads in the vicinity of the current building.

Another resident shared a story about Kittle's Egg-atorium located about where "The Oaks" development is today on Vischer-Ferry Road. They raised chickens and sold eggs at a little stand on the honor system. You just left your money and took your eggs (more times than not they were double yoked). The farmer's wife always won first prize for her pies at the fair.

Other's told me that the Barney Road Clubhouse was jumping on Saturday nights and people came from out of the area to eat dinner in the dining room

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• ATHLETIC INJURIES • REHABILITATION

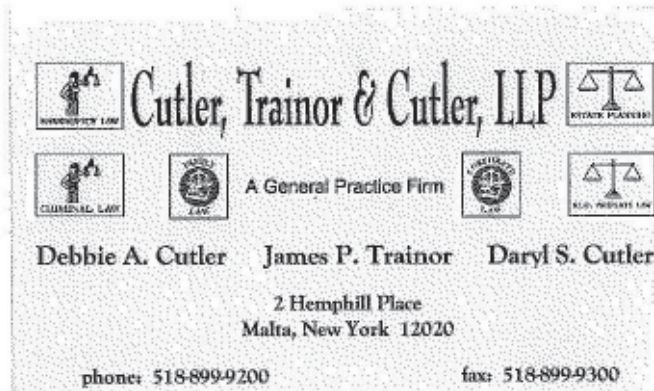
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and stay and dance. John Graca was the Chef and ran the restaurant.

Our earliest resident told me that Mr. Van Patten treated the new homeowners well. As you've probably heard there were no contracts, just a handshake. He wouldn't deal through a realtor, just face-to-face with the buyer. If you needed a refrigerator or stove he gave them to you and for years new residents received a floral piece from him at



Christmas. Folks felt a little like pioneers out here in rural Clifton Park but those that were forced to leave due to job transfers said that they would never find a home in another area like this.

That same resident remembered Klingbeil's store at the old Grooms Tavern Building and had fond memories of the cheese from the big cheese-wheel he sold from. They used the store for small items, saving a trip out of the area to Latham, since there was no shopping here in the early days. Rosen's opened on Vischer-Ferry Road about where the Stewart's Plaza is today and had a slightly larger selection of canned goods. But it wasn't until the Star Market opened that super market style shopping came to the Clifton Park area.

Thanks to all of you that responded to my request. For everyone else, please share your anecdotes of life in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek with me at 371-9420 or by e-mail at wicz2004@yahoo.com. I want to put your stories and recollections in the column as well.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED BY PADGETT BUSINESS SERVICES

Clifton Park, New York – High school seniors who are the dependents of small business owners in this area are eligible to apply for a scholarship offered by the Padgett Business Services Foundation.

Padgett Business Services and The Padgett Foundation are dedicated to giving small businesses every advantage possible. "Small business owners are faced with many challenges," remarked Amy Sangaline, owner of the local Padgett office. "Among them is adequate funding for their dependents' post-secondary education."

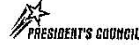
The local award is part of an international program in which the Padgett Business Services Foundation has awarded over \$800,000 in scholarships to dependents of owners of small businesses. Awards are based on applicant college aptitude test scores, high school grade-point averages, extracurricular activities, and educational and career plans. Local winners will be announced in May. Each regional winner in the U.S. will be eligible for a U.S. National Scholarship of an additional \$1,000, while regional winners in Canada will be eligible for a Canadian National Scholarship of an additional \$1,000. The International Scholarship of an additional \$2,000 will be awarded to one of the two national winners. The national and international winners will be announced in June.

Scholarship applicants must be graduating high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited post-secondary institution. In addition, the parent or legal guardian of the student must be an active owner of at least 10 percent of the stock or capital in a local business that employs fewer than 20 people. **The deadline for applying is March 1.** For an application and further information about the Padgett Business Services Foundation Scholarship Program, please call Amy Sangaline at 348-1666 or visit us on the web at: www.smallbizpros.com/j_sangaline.



Karen J. McDonald

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Our Neighborhood Kids are Caring Kids

Help us spread some good news! Many wonderful kids who live in Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek contribute their time and talents to others. The civic association wishes to give them some well-deserved recognition and we ask your help.

Tell us about a school aged resident who has distinguished him or herself in volunteer efforts. We invite you to write a brief article (250 words or less, please) introducing the youngster and praising him or her for the volunteer activities she or he does so well. Articles can be written (with parental permission) by parents, neighbors, relatives, mentors, even by the kids themselves (great preparation for that college application!!)

Articles will be accepted for publication anytime between now and September 2007. Eligible kids will be entered in a drawing. Three will be chosen to select a charity that will receive a \$100 donation in his or her name.

Mail the article and the names and phone numbers of two adults who can verify the youngster's activities to: Caring Kids Program, CKMC Civic Association, P.O. Box 2, Clifton Park NY 12065. Alternatively, email the article and references to Loretta Parsons at loparson@nycap.rr.com.

Questions? Ask Loretta at 371-7729.

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CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

We've set the date for the annual public meeting of the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association on Wednesday, April 25th at 7:30 pm in the Locust Lane Clubhouse. This is your chance to meet and talk with the Board of Directors of the Association to give us your feedback and suggestions about what you'd like to see in the future. We'll hold a short business meeting and election (by you) of Board members whose terms are expiring. If you'd like to join the Board, this is a good opportunity to do so. We usually also have a guest speaker. This year we are trying to arrange a presentation about the commercial/residential development projects and the open space projects that are planned here in the southeast quadrant of Clifton Park. So, please put us on your calendar now. We'd like to meet and hear from you. We hope to see you then and we'll remind everyone in the early April issue of the News and Views when the speaker is finalized.

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December 12, 2006

Richard M. Kukuk
Superintendent of Highways
Town of Clifton Park
639 Clifton Park Center Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065

Dear Rick,


On behalf of the Clifton Knolls Leaf District, I'd like to take this opportunity to commend and to thank you and your staff for an outstanding effort in performing the leaf pickup from October 16 to December 1 this year.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated quite well, except for a few wet periods which did not significantly hamper the pickup. Leaf pickup operations throughout the development appeared to be very efficient and effective compared to previous years' procedures. I'm assuming that the recent purchase of the new diesel powered leaf blower and truck bins was successful and may dictate future equipment needs and purchases – pending positive feedback and possible refinements to the procedures.

It also appears that most residents complied reasonably with the rules, except possibly for the occasional inclusion of large sticks and branches in some piles of leaves. In the future, if you agree, a note may be included in the notice to residents to either remove or to break-up all sticks and branches smaller than approximately ½ inches in diameter to no more than 6 inches in length to avoid clogging of the equipment. Please advise on your recommendation regarding this possible revision.

Again, thanks for a successful leaf pickup program.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Rudick, Chairman
Clifton Knolls Leaf District Committee

Cc: Phil Barrett, Town Supervisor
Loretta Parsons
Howard Savage
Joyce Savage
Sherry Kearns
Ray Misiewicz, CKMC Civic Assoc.

Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association
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